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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. GOVERNMENT \$250 MILLION FEED THE FUTURE PROGRAM MARKS FIRST YEAR OF SUCCESS

DHAKA, OCTOBER 27 -- A high-level U.S. Government delegation from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has wrapped up a visit to Bangladesh to review the U.S. Government's comprehensive food security program known as Feed the Future (FTF) and to discuss future initiatives. Team members included Dina Esposito, Director of the USAID Food for Peace Office, Amy Sink, representing the USAID/Washington Bureau for Food Security, and Lona Stoll, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The October 22-27 visit marked the one-year anniversary of the program's launch in Bangladesh.

Feed the Future is a \$3.5 billion global initiative announced by President Obama at the 2008 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy. The five-year Bangladesh Feed the Future program was launched in October 2010 to improve the availability of nutritious food and enhance the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in southern Bangladesh. The goals are to pull over one million Bangladeshis out of poverty and reduce child under-nutrition rates by a minimum of 25%. The total USG contribution for the FTF program in 2010-2014 is projected to be \$250 million, pending annual appropriations by the U.S. Congress. This program directly supports the Bangladesh plan for food security, otherwise known as the Country Investment Plan.

Over the past year, the Bangladesh FTF Program has worked with the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Disaster Management, Fisheries and Livestock, and other Bangladesh government and non-governmental organizations to achieve some important results. These include bringing innovative fertilizer deep placement technology to over 244,000 hectares of agricultural land, increasing farm yields by an average of 15%. The program has increased the value of horticulture in the target area by about \$7.5 million, and fish and shrimp sales have risen by \$54 million. Overall, more than 450,000 farmers are using improved farming technologies. In addition, our combined efforts have helped create more than 15,000 jobs during the first year of implementation.

During the coming year, the U.S. Government will be supporting a major expansion of all activities, including the rollout of a nutrition program, new initiatives in fish and vegetable production, and further expansion on the successful deep placement fertilizer program, as well efforts to better link farmers to markets and promote agricultural research.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, has provided more than \$5.8 billion in assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, USAID marks its 50th anniversary as an agency in 2012. Across the globe, USAID's 110 missions will be celebrating USAID's 50th anniversary throughout the year with in-country activities.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)